GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3194
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Participation of Youth
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has been taking any measures to boost participation of youth in politics, governance and development process in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI. VIJAY GOEL)

(a) &(b) Yes, Madam. Participation of Youth in Politics and Governance is one of the Key priority area of the National Youth Policy, 2014. The Policy emphasises the need to ensure that the youth participate in politics at all levels, from the grassroots to the national stage. The youth participation can be by contesting elections and holding political positions as well as by casting their votes in elections. The Policy also lays a lot of emphasis on actively associating the youth in governance and development process, i.e., in the policy formation as well as implementation. The Constitution of India provides the opportunity to the youth to participate in the democratic political process right from the local bodies in their respective areas going up to the Parliament of India. The participation of youth has been increasing. The youth participation by way of casting of their votes has also been increasing. The Election Commission of India has taken up a programme called SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Programme, which has been playing a key role in this regard.
The focus of the Government is on youth-led development. The Government is of firm belief that the youth should be active drivers and not just passive recipients of the development process. The Government has been making proactive efforts to involve citizens, esp. the youth, as partners in the progress. An important initiative of the Government is that a portal called MyGov.nic.in has been set up, on which the youth can give their suggestions on a wide-ranging governance issues.
Another important initiative is regarding 'Youth Parliament'. Since 2014-15, the Department of Youth Affairs has taken an initiative to organise Youth Parliament Programmes at Block and Village levels, involving youth clubs affiliated with NYKS. NYKS has so far organised 24,066 Block-level and 36,764 village-level Youth Parliament Programmes. These Programmes help in developing the leadership qualities of the youth by educating them about contemporary socio-economic development issues and by involving them in debates/ discussions on such issues, thereby effectively involving them in governance process.
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